



IDENTITY –Living the Gospel Galatians 3:19-29

Galatians is an amazing letter. I hope everyone is getting as much out of it as I am. Sunday mornings provide a great opportunity to dig into the text and get ideas about how we can go about implementing what we are learning in our daily lives. Continuing the conversation in our groups provides further insights about what God has to say to us through Paul’s words to the church in Galatia. The Spirit uses God’s words to stimulate us to ever-increasing Christ-likeness. I hope you have been hearing God talk to you through what we have studied so far and are being challenged.

Getting Started

Ted does a great job of finding relevant quotes to bolster his sermon. Many of them deserve more time and consideration than we are able to give them Sunday morning. Read and discuss the following quote from Larry Crabb.

“When I admit, in my weakness I can do nothing to fill my emptiness, there is opportunity for the Spirit to move us into closer relationship with Himself.”

How did Ted fit this into his sermon?

How does it relate to this week’s passage?

When are you aware of that emptiness only God can fill?

How have you tried to fill that space in the past?

There are many misunderstandings of what the Law really is, why it was given, and how we should interact with it. We are going to consider the nature and purpose of the Law this week. Read the first six verses of our passage and begin discussion.

What is the purpose of the law? 3:19-25

1. **The law was designed to reveal the heart of God.**
2. **The law was designed to break our hearts.**
3. **The law was designed to create a thirst.**

How have you thought about the Law in the past?

What did you learn about the Law this week?

Why did the Law come about in the first place?

Why did the Israelites have a need for the Law?

How does the Law reveal the character of God?

How does the Law break our hearts and create a thirst?

The next section gives us instructions and insights into how we should live in light of the Law and being in Christ.

How should we then live? 3:26-29

... identified as being in Christ.

- **Choosing to lean upon the righteousness of Christ, rather than gaining our security based on performance.**
- **Choosing to live as a part of the body of Christ, rather than gaining our significance based on positions.**
- **Choosing to be led by the Holy Spirit as we rest in the promise of God, rather than gaining our strength based on power.**

How were the Galatians trying to find their identity?

How did Paul correct their thinking?

Where do you look to find your significance?

Why is it hard to turn consistently to Christ for these needs?

What does it really mean to live as part of the body?

How are we led by the Spirit? When have you been led?

Application

This is our time to pause and give the Spirit time to work in our hearts and guide us in the paths He would have us follow. We all have specific issues we need to work on, and God directs us specifically and deliberately. Let’s consider His words to us.

It is possible for us to fail to live according to who we truly are!

Each day, be intentional about seeing yourself in light of these truths.

Do you feel you are living according to who you truly are?

What would this look like for you?

What one specific area will you trust God to work on?

How can the body (your group) help you in this endeavor?

Prayer

Thank God for taking the initiative in your relationship with Him. Ask the Father to impress a desire to pursue Him and live according to who He designed you to be. Praise God for loving you, sending His Son to die for your sins, and giving His Spirit to indwell us. Praise Him for who He is, what He has done, & what He will do.